

House Bill 1357

By: Representatives Knox of the 24th, Rynders of the 152nd, Battles of the 15th, Smith of the 113th, McCall of the 30th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to open
2 and public meetings, so as to change posting and advertisement requirements for all meetings
3 of county boards of tax assessors; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 **SECTION 1.**

6 Code Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to open and public
7 meetings, is amended by revising subsection (d) and adding a new subsection to read as
8 follows:

9 "(d)(1) This subsection shall apply to all agency meetings except as otherwise provided
10 in subsection (d.1) of this Code section.

11 (2) Every agency shall prescribe the time, place, and dates of regular meetings of the
12 agency. Such information shall be available to the general public and a notice containing
13 such information shall be posted and maintained in a conspicuous place available to the
14 public at the regular meeting place of the agency. Meetings shall be held in accordance
15 with a regular schedule, but nothing in this subsection shall preclude an agency from
16 canceling or postponing any regularly scheduled meeting. Whenever any meeting
17 required to be open to the public is to be held at a time or place other than at the time and
18 place prescribed for regular meetings, the agency shall give due notice thereof. 'Due
19 notice' shall be the posting of a written notice for at least 24 hours at the place of regular
20 meetings and giving of written or oral notice at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting
21 to the legal organ in which notices of sheriff's sales are published in the county where
22 regular meetings are held or at the option of the agency to a newspaper having a general
23 circulation in said county at least equal to that of the legal organ; provided, however, that
24 in counties where the legal organ is published less often than four times weekly 'due
25 notice' shall be the posting of a written notice for at least 24 hours at the place of regular
26 meetings and, upon written request from any local broadcast or print media outlet whose

place of business and physical facilities are located in the county, notice by telephone or facsimile to that requesting media outlet at least 24 hours in advance of the called meeting. When special circumstances occur and are so declared by an agency, that agency may hold a meeting with less than 24 hours' notice upon giving such notice of the meeting and subjects expected to be considered at the meeting as is reasonable under the circumstances including notice to said county legal organ or a newspaper having a general circulation in the county at least equal to that of the legal organ, in which event the reason for holding the meeting within 24 hours and the nature of the notice shall be recorded in the minutes. Whenever notice is given to a legal organ or other newspaper, that publication shall immediately make the information available upon inquiry to any member of the public. Any oral notice required or permitted by this subsection may be given by telephone.

(d.1) Every county board of tax assessors shall prescribe the time, place, and dates of regular meetings of the county board of tax assessors. Meetings shall be held in accordance with a regular schedule, but nothing in this subsection shall preclude an agency from canceling or postponing any regularly scheduled meeting. Whenever any regular meeting of a county board of tax assessors is to be held or whenever any meeting required to be open to the public is to be held at a time or place other than at the time and place prescribed for regular meetings, the county board of tax assessors shall give due notice thereof. 'Due notice' shall be the posting of a written notice for at least one week at the place of regular meetings and giving of written or oral notice at least one week in advance of the meeting to the legal organ in which notices of sheriff's sales are published in the county where regular meetings are held or at the option of the agency to a newspaper having a general circulation in said county at least equal to that of the legal organ. When special circumstances occur and are so declared by a county board of tax assessors, that county board of tax assessors may hold a meeting with less than one weeks' notice upon giving such notice of the meeting and subjects expected to be considered at the meeting as is reasonable under the circumstances including notice to said county legal organ or a newspaper having a general circulation in the county at least equal to that of the legal organ, in which event the reason for holding the meeting within less than one weeks' time and the nature of the notice shall be recorded in the minutes. Whenever notice is given to a legal organ or other newspaper, that publication shall immediately make the information available upon inquiry to any member of the public. Any oral notice required or permitted by this subsection may be given by telephone."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.